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Show-Me Response Team Now Part of State Emergency Management Agency

Effective Sept. 1, 2013, members of the Show-Me Response team, including Program Coordinator Anne Kyle and Consultant Nurse Nela Beetem, are now a part of the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in the Department of Public Safety. The integration of the former Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism (CERT) into SEMA has been a seamless transition, according to SEMA Preparedness Branch Director Melissa Friel.

The transition will not change how Show-Me Response functions or interacts with volunteers. Show-Me Response continues to be a robust registry of health professionals and others who are willing to volunteer in the event of an emergency. Currently, there are more than 7,600 volunteers registered in Show-Me Response. Thirty-five Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units, 10 Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA) and four specialty organizations now use Show-Me Response for managing their volunteers. In addition to health professionals, more than 1,500 non-medical volunteers are registered with these organizations. Approximately one third of Show-Me Response volunteers are affiliated with an MRC, LPHA or specialty unit within Show-Me Response.

To reach a member of the Show-Me Response team, visit www.showmeresponse.org and use the *Contact Us* link or send an email to showmeresponse@health.mo.gov.

The Importance of Training and Where to Get It

Training is a crucial part of being prepared to assist during an emergency. Even taking a few basic courses will greatly improve a volunteer's readiness to serve. When it comes to participating in training, time is often the key issue. Many volunteers find that online training provides a convenient way to complete courses such as Incident Command System (ICS) and Psychological First Aid (PFA). Online training is not always the preferred choice, however, especially in areas when hands-on experience is available. When surveyed, Show-Me Response volunteers have reported that face-to-face training is often preferable to online courses. For more information about PFA courses, including the current course schedule, or to schedule a course, please contact Joan Keenan, Office of Disaster Services, Missouri Department of Mental Health at (573)-526-6962 or email: joan.keenan@dmh.mo.gov.

The course Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a 12-hour certification course to help communities better understand mental illness and to respond to psychiatric emergencies. For more information about MHFA visit www.mhfamissouri.org. Among the best resource for face-to-face training for those interested in volunteering during disasters is through affiliation with local response organizations such as the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), local public health agencies and specialty units such as the Department of Mental Health. These organizations offer opportunities for volunteers to train and participate in exercises through which participants will become familiar with one another and better prepared to meet the needs of the community during a disaster. To affiliate with one of these organizations, simply sign in to your profile at www.showmeresponse.org and click the *Organizations* tab. Be sure to select an organization that is a good fit based on location and specialty. Simply click the name of the organization to read a brief description.

Specialty Experience

The Show-Me Response team is able to search for health professional volunteers based on a variety of criteria. The ability to search for volunteers with a variety of specialty experience is based on a search of information included in the *Occupation* section of the volunteer profile. Follow these steps to add specialty experience:

Log in to your profile at www.showmeresponse.org

Click the **my profile** tab

Click the **occupations** tab

Click the link for one of your occupations

Click the **edit information** button

Scroll down to the **specialty experience** field

This is a free-text field where information regarding specialty experience may be entered. The use of key words or phrases, such as *dialysis*, *phlebotomy*, *cardiac cath lab*, etc., will be very helpful when specific specialty skills are needed. This specialty information field is only available for medical occupations. Please plan to log in to your profile and update your medical occupations to include specialty experience.

Free Online Training Available

The Learning Management System (LMS) is available to Show-Me Response volunteers and provides a source for free, online training courses. Visit www.heartlandcenters.com to find courses and to enroll. Courses available on LMS include categories such as *Emergency Preparedness*, *Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*, *General Public Health* and *Bioterrorism*. The upper left corner of the home screen has links to help with creating an account, completing a course and recovering lost login information.

Social Media Requests and Show-Me Response

The email account showmeresponse@health.mo.gov frequently receives messages from social media sites such as LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook. We appreciate the interest in connecting via social media; however, this email account is used by all members of the Show-Me Response team and is not available for use as a link to social media sites.



Public Health

The Call is produced by the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

If you have information you would like to share with the readership, contact Anne Kyle at Anne.Kyle@sema.dps.mo.gov.

Show-Me Response is Missouri's Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) and is used by Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) and other partners for the management of volunteers.

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